



In the Matter of:

Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking Comments on E-rate Category Two
WC Docket No. 13-184

I would like to submit my input on Category 2 funding. I am a school librarian in Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Hinsdale is a small, rural community. Over 46% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Having access to reliable and secure internet connection through WiFi is critical to patrons of my library. Many of the users of the library are students. As such, their future success hinges on their ability to access and use the internet. It is estimated that as many as 35% of the students in my district do not have a means of connection to the internet at home. Those that do are limited to low-speed connections at high costs. Because of this, the library plays a critical role in providing the access that they cannot get elsewhere.

Students are using this connection to the internet to expand their opportunities and world view beyond the limited scope they had been offered in their rural, low-income community. Just this past week I have watched my students apply to colleges, seek financial aid, write resumes, school work, and take online courses not otherwise offered by the school. In addition, teachers use the internet to teach courses in technology that allow our students to be better prepared for the increasingly technological job market. We have courses on programming, coding, digital portfolio creation, digital photography, videography, and robotics. Access to the internet is a critical component for teaching and the quality of the education provided by my school is enriched by this access.

The E-rate program is critical to school districts and towns like Hinsdale. Having access to these funds ensures that we can continue maintaining and improving our equipment and WiFi Infrastructure. Please help us ensure a solid future for our students by maintaining the full five-year budget period for the E-rate program.

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